



Jim Doyle  
Governor

Helene Nelson  
Secretary

**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Health and Family Services**

**Important Information Regarding Prior Authorization  
for Brand-Name SSRIs – Effective March 15, 2004.**

February 23, 2004

Dear Prescribing Provider:

Effective for dates of service on and after March 15, 2004, Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) drugs, except generic fluoxetine, will require prior authorization (PA) for reimbursement by Wisconsin Medicaid. Patients currently stabilized on a brand name SSRI will be granted PA to remain on that drug.

The Wisconsin Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee comprised of physicians, pharmacists, advocates and consumers met and discussed SSRI drugs at three meetings. Based on the minutes from those meetings as well as materials and clinical evidence presented to the Committee, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services has directed that all prescriptions for SSRI drugs, except generic fluoxetine, require PA.

PA for a brand name SSRI will be granted if the patient:

- is currently stabilized on a brand-name SSRI;
- has tried and failed or had an adverse reaction to fluoxetine; or
- has a clinical contraindication to starting with fluoxetine.

Only patients new to SSRIs must begin treatment with generic fluoxetine. Patients with a clinical contraindication, as documented by the prescriber, may be granted PA to start on a brand name SSRI.

Although pharmacies are responsible for obtaining the PA, your assistance providing clinical information to answer the PA question sequence may be needed to determine whether or not to grant PA. PA will be available through the Specialized Transmission Approval Technology (STAT) PA system. This is an automated, real-time system that is available 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., seven days a week.

Attached is a worksheet providers can use to document the reasons for granting PA. The "Pharmacy" side of the form contains the three questions for obtaining PA for a brand name SSRI. The "Prescriber/Pharmacy" side may be used to document the clinical reasons to start a patient on a SSRI drug other than fluoxetine. This form is being made available to prescribers, pharmacies, and patients. The form can also be downloaded from our website at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid).

This is an optional form that patients, pharmacists and prescribers (e.g., physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants) may use to obtain or maintain clinical documentation supporting medical necessity of brand name SSRI drugs requiring PA. We encourage you to use this form to facilitate the prior authorization process. Providers are required to maintain documentation justifying PA and medical necessity, such as optional worksheets (attached). The optional worksheets may expedite approval of PA without telephone or fax communication between the prescribing physician and the dispensing pharmacy.

The SSRI drugs that will require PA are:

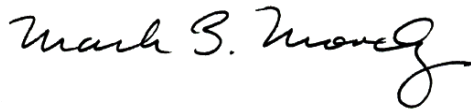
- Celexa
- Lexapro
- Paroxetine
- Paxil
- Paxil CR
- Pexeva
- Zoloft
- Prozac Weekly

Pharmacies may begin requesting PA on March 1, 2004, for dates of service on and after March 15, 2004.

This policy applies to Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare fee-for-service (FFS) recipients and all SeniorCare participants. Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) must cover all the drugs covered by FFS but are allowed to place restrictions, such as PA, on those drugs. Therefore, Medicaid recipients who are in an MCO may have different PA requirements than FFS.

If you have additional questions, please call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

Sincerely,



MARK B. MOODY  
Administrator

MBM:my  
PA01054

Attachment



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